

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3848

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, DA
SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER SPEAKS OF NEED FOR FOREIGN NATO REIN-
FORCEMENTS IN "GRAY PERIOD"

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THIS SUNDAY'S, JUNE 11TH, EDITION OF LYLLANDS POSTEN
CARRIED AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF DANISH
DEFENSE. A DETAILED REPORT ON THIS ARTICLE, WHICH
APPEARED IN THE MOST IMPORTANT - AND CONSERVATIVE - NEWS-
PAPER IN DENMARK OUTSIDE COPENHAGEN IS BEING FORWARDED BY
DEFENSE ATTACHE CHANNELS.

2. THE PRESENTATION IS CAST IN SUCH A WAY AS TO
IMPLY A CHANGE IN DANISH DEFENSE POLICY BY REASON
OF DEFENSE MINISTER POUL SOGAARD'S REMARKS ON RECEPTION
HERE OF REINFORCEMENTS. SOGAARD, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH
THE NEWSPAPER'S CORRESPONDENT, CONFIRMED THAT FOREIGN
NATO FORCES COULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE UP POSITIONS
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IN DENMARK IN THE SO-CALLED GRAY PERIOD WHEN AN ATTACK
ON DENMARK WAS THREATENED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE CORRESPONDENT'S QUESTION,
"ISN'T THIS ATTITUDE A CHANGE IN DENMARK'S PAST
OFFICIAL POLICY, WHICH WAS THAT FOREIGN TROOPS
COULD NOT BE STATIONED IN DENMARK IN PEACETIME?" SOGAARD

ANSWERED "WELL - I DON'T KNOW... BUT AT ANY RATE IT IS
A CONDITION FOR OBTAINING THE NECESSARY REINFORCEMENTS."

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4. IN A CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, MFA DEPUTY CHIEF OF
NATO AND SECURITY AFFAIRS, FLEMMING MORCH, CONFIRMED
THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT SOGAARD'S REMARKS, IN
FACT, IMPLIED NO CHANGE IN DANISH DEFENSE POLICY
BARRING THE STATIONING OF FOREIGN FORCES ON METROPOLITAN
DANISH TERRITORY IN PEACETIME. MORCH POINTED OUT THAT
NATO STRATEGY FOR DENMARK HAS ALWAYS BEEN BASED ON
THE ASSUMPTION THAT DENMARK WAS DEFENSIBLE ONLY THROUGH
THE INTRODUCTION OF NATO REINFORCEMENTS AND THAT, IT
WAS OBVIOUS THAT SUCH REINFORCEMENTS WERE NEEDED HERE
BEFORE HOSTILITIES ACTUALLY ERUPTED.

5. AN INTERESTING RUNDOWN BY MORCH OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL/STATUTORY
STEPS NEEDED BY THE DANES IN ORDER TO HAND OVER
COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES TO NATO AND TO MINE THE
STRAITS IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.
DEAN

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